

Message Text

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46/67

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUETO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ROFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY -- JULY 15

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOVIET PRESS ("PRAVDA" AND "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" ONLY -- "IZVESTIA" ON VACATION YESTERDAY):

-- U.S. COVERAGE INCLUDES FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO CONTINUED SPACE COOPERATION.

-- ECPC FOLLOW-UP MARKED BY JULY 15 "PRAVDA" TASS REPORT ON L'HUMANITE ARTICLES BY KANAPA AND FAJON, WHICH IS HEAVY ON COMMON VIEWS AND GOALS, AND LIGHT ON DIFFERENCES. PONOMAREV WAS RANKING GUEST AT FRENCH EMB JULY 14 RECEPTION; TASS ITEM FROM NEW YORK IN "PRAVDA" HAS CPUSA NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HENRY WINSTON "HOTLY SUPPORTING" BREZHNEV'S SUGGESTION OF PERIODIC INTRA-COMMUNIST MEETINGS; AND CPSU CC MEETING OF IDEOLOGICAL WORKERS CHAIRED BY ZIMYANIN (REPORTED SAME "PRAVDA") CONSIDERED "STRUGGLE WITH BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA."

-- "PRAVDA" JULY 15 REPORTS ARRIVAL OF HEAVYWEIGHT ROMANIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION UNDER RADULESCU, MEETING WITH KIRILENKO, KATUSHEV, AND LESECHKO IN "WARM, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." "PRAVDA" ALSO RECORDS PODGORNYY'S GREETING TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL.

-- ON MIDDLE EAST, "PRAVDA" AND "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" CONTAIN SEVERAL SHORT ITEMS ON LEBANESE SITUATION WHICH INDICATE INCREASE IN INDIRECT CRITICISM OF SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIONS. MOST PROMINENT IS "PRAVDA" REPORT OF JULY 14 MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE BY NEWLY APPOINTED LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE ASH-SHA'IR, WHO EXPRESSED "DEEP REGRET AND BEWILDERMENT" OVER SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN ACTION AGAINST PALESTINE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND LEBANESE NATIONAL-PATRIOTIC FORCES. "PRAVDA" ALSO GIVES PAGE ONE SEMI-APPROVAL TO STATEMENT OF ETHIOPIAN PMAC WHICH EXPLAINED RECENT EXECUTIONS AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIETY ALONG SOCIALIST LINES.

-- IN FAR EAST, "PRAVDA" COMMENTARY BY V. BOLSHAKOV WAXES ECSTATIC OVER "UNPRECEDENTED" GENERAL STRIKE THAT "PARALYZED" AUSTRALIA FOR ONE DAY; STRIKE TERMED A "WARNING" TO AUSTRALIA'S RULING CIRCLES THAT ARE TRYING TO "LIQUIDATE" SOCIAL GAINS OF THE WORKERS. "PRAVDA" ALSO HAS SHORT ITEMS PRAISING WORK OF INDIAN COMMUNISTS IN BIHAR AND RECORDING PONOMAREV'S "FRIENDLY AND COMRADELY" MEETING WITH VISITING INDIAN COMMUNIST GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY RAO.

2. U.S. COVERAGE A MIXED BAG. "PRAVDA" AND "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA," ON THE ONE HAND, PROMINENTLY REVIEW NEW BOOK "SOYUZ AND APPOLLO" ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE JOINT SPACE TEST PROJECT (TODAY IS FIRST ANNIVERSARY) THAT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE "CONDITIONS OF THE POLITICAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS." THE REVIEW TERMS THE PROJECT AND "ACHIEVEMENT...OF PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANCE," AND STATES THAT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND NASA ON "FURTHER JOINT WORK IN MANNED FLIGHTS WILL BE HELD SHORTLY." (THE BOOK CONTAINS AT LEAST ONE SOUR NOTE: A PREFATORY REFERENCE TO THOSE IN THE U.S. WHO "WERE OPENLY AGAINST THE JOINT FLIGHT.") "PRAVDA" ALSO CALLS ATTENTION TO THE VIKING ONE FLIGHT TO PLACE INSTRUMENTS ON MARS.

-- ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CENTRAL PRESS IS CRITICAL OF U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS AND ARMS SALES. "PRAVDA" PROVIDES SEVERAL DETAILS ON THE MANEUVERS IN OKINAWA AND STRESSES THE FACT THAT TWO-THIRDS OF ALL AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN JAPAN ARE ON OKINAWA. "PRAVDA" AND "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" ALSO PROVIDE CRITICISM OF ARMS SALES TO THE THIRD WORLD, CITING SOUTH AFRICA AND THAILAND AMONG OTHERS AND SO-CALLED CONTRACT OF CENTURY WITH BELGIUM FOR F-16 THAT FINDS MTAMC XXZIULLEGEDLY RENEGING ON SUB-CONTRACTS TO BELGIAN FIRMS. FINALLY, "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" COMMENTARY ACCUSES U.S. LEADERS OF HIPOCRISY IN ITS DEALINGS WITH VORSTER, INDIRECTLY CRITICIZING THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS.

3. THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF EDITOR OF "IZVESTIA" OFFERED THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION FOR THE ABSENCE OF YESTERDAY'S EDITION: SINCE AN EXTRA ISSUE WAS PUBLISHED DURING THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS, THE PAPER HAD A DAY OFF COMING. EMBASSY SOURCES SAY THAT THIS HAPPENS OCCASIONALLY WITH MOST PUBLICATIONS, BUT NEVER WITH "PRAVDA".
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